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EXAMINER

BELL, MELTIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/923,427

Applicant(s)

HIRA ET AL.

Examiner

Meltin Bell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2004 and 16 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2004 and 16 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/6/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This non-final action is responsive to application **09/923,427** filed 08/08/01 as well as the Drawing Corrections, Specification Changes and Amendments filed 7/16/04 and 7/6/04. Claims 1-33 filed by the applicant have been entered and examined and applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the following new ground(s) of rejection. An action on the merits of claims 1-33 appears below.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application #2000-278674 filed in Japan on **9/8/00**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The language of the claims (e.g. "example", "database", "information", "problem", "solution", "result") raise a question as to whether the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application

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producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. For example, if claim 1 was amended to recite a computer-implemented method and required performance of a result outside of a computer, it will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

To expedite a complete examination of the instant application, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (nonstatutory) above are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of applicant amending these claims to place them within the four statutory categories of invention. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of new ground(s) of rejection

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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Claims 12-13 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Baker* USPN 6,076,083 "Diagnostic system utilizing a Bayesian network model having link weights updated experimentally" (Issued: June 13, 2000; Filed: August 21, 1996).

Regarding claim 12:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base") and
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- searching either a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, having solution rules (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solution in association with said problem each of the examples including an instrument having a predetermined function
- extracting and displaying (FIG. 3, items 202-203, 208, 210, 214) a solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules

Regarding claim 13:

Baker teaches,

- said function to extract said solution corresponding to said solution rules has a function to search a content database having information of solutions associated with said

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solution rules (column 9, lines 40-67, "all matrix cells... configuration matches an";

column 10, lines 1-51, "instance, the cells...with that configuration")

Regarding claim 26:

Baker teaches,

- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

To expedite a complete examination of the instant application, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (nonstatutory) above are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of applicant amending these claims to place them within the four statutory categories of invention.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Office presumes that the subject matter of the

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various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the Office to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 8-11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *August et al* US 6647383 "System and method for providing interactive dialogue and iterative search functions to find information" (Patented November 11, 2003; Filed September 1, 2000).

Regarding claim 1:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby

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- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by and *August et al* for the purpose of improving search results.

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Regarding claim 8:

Baker teaches,

- means for accepting data about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- means for searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems"), which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- means for displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server or means for searching a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function to

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determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server (Fig. 1; column 5, lines 55-60, "this information gathering ... to the user")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al* for the purpose of improving search results.

Regarding claim 9:

The rejection of claim 9 is similar to that for claim 8 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are taught in the references. Claim 9's limitations difference is taught in *August et al*:

- said data accepting means receives data to be improved (column 8, lines 53-66, "a search engine ... as a librarian". Note: The search is the data that is improved.)

Regarding claim 10:

The rejection of claim 10 is similar to that for claim 9 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are taught in the references. Claim 10's limitations difference is taught in *Baker*:

- said solution database stores said data of said solution rules concerned with said problem and said received data to be improved in association with each other (column 8, lines 32-42, "Information about initial ... communications network change")

Regarding claim 11:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base") and
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a... to the fault"),
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accented data with corresponding instruments based on a result of the function to search (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base")
- searching a case database which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to the instruction, a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type... conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve the problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26,

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"Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby

However, Baker doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples while *August et al* teaches, - searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed medium would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al* for the purpose of improving search results.

Regarding claim 14:

The rejection of claim 14 is similar to that for claim 1 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 14's limitations difference is taught in *Baker*:

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- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

Regarding claim 16:

The rejection of claim 16 is similar to that for claim 1 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 16's limitations difference is taught in *August et al*:

- displaying a history of said instructions input by said user (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

Regarding claim 18:

The rejection of claim 18 is similar to that for claim 8 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 18's limitations difference is taught in *Baker*:

- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

Regarding claim 20:

The rejection of claim 20 is similar to that for claim 8 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 20's limitations difference is taught in *August et al*:

- displaying a history of said instructions input by said demander (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

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Regarding claim 22:

The rejection of claim 22 is similar to that for claim 11 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 22's limitations difference is taught in *Baker*:

- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

Regarding claim 24:

The rejection of claim 24 is similar to that for claim 11 as recited above since the stated limitations of the claim are set forth in the references. Claim 24's limitations difference is taught in *August et al*:

- displaying a history of said instructions of said user (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

Regarding claim 28:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base") and
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- searching either a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, having solution rules (column 1, lines 45-67, "The

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earliest type... conditions grows large”) stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solution in association with said problem each of the examples including an instrument having a predetermined function

- extracting and displaying (FIG. 3, items 202-203, 208, 210, 214) a solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules

However, Baker doesn't explicitly teach displaying a history of said instructions of said user while *August et al* teaches,

- displaying a history of said instructions of said user (column 23, lines 7-19, “The Smart Search ... extended resource set”)

Motivation – The portions of the claimed medium would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, “COI Community of Interest ... improved search results”)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al* for the purpose of improving search results.

Claims 15, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *August et al* and in further view of *King* USPN 6,772,103 “Method for selecting a parts kit detail” (Patented August 3, 2004; 371 (c)(1), (2), (4) Date: July 9, 1999).

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Regarding claim 15:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")
- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a

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corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument while *August et al* teaches, - searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed method would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

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- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al* and *King* for the purpose of improving search results and reducing instrument costs.

Regarding claim 19:

Baker teaches,

- means for accepting data about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- means for searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems"), which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- means for displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

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- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server, means for searching a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby or the instruction inputted by the demander relates to a part selection while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-

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50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

- means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server (Fig. 1; column 5, lines 55-60, "this information gathering ... to the user")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the demander relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al* and *King* for the purpose of improving search results and reducing instrument costs.

Regarding claim 23:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base") and

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- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accented data with corresponding instruments based on a result of the function to search (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- searching a case database which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to the instruction, a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve the problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby
- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-

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18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed method would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al* and *King* for the purpose of improving search results and reducing instrument costs.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *August et al* in further view of *Cheetam et al* USPN 5,668,633 "Method and system for formulating a color match" (September 16, 1997).

Regarding claim 2:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

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- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

- the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules (Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65, "Still another advantage ... are telescoped into")

Cheetam et al teaches,

- the step of displaying search results (Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, "the present invention ... the case database 26") in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution (Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54, "The basic idea ... from basic principles"; column 5, lines 49-61, "If the trial ... and their loadings")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Standardizing the formulation process and basing the formulation on product history (*Cheetam et al*, column 6, lines 58-60, "a more consistent ... on product history")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *Cheetam et al* and *August et al* for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process and improving search results.

Regarding claim 3:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby.
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

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- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the step of displaying a plurality of examples of solution searched out from said case database in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

- the step of displaying a plurality of examples of solution (Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65, "Still another advantage ... are telescoped into")

Cheetam et al teaches,

- the step of displaying search results (Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, "the present invention ... the case database 26") in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution (Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54, "The basic idea ... from basic principles"; column 5, lines 49-61, "If the trial ... and their loadings")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Standardizing the formulation process and basing the formulation on product history (*Cheetam et al*, column 6, lines 58-60, "a more consistent ... on product history")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *Cheetam et al* and *August et al* for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process and improving search results.

Regarding claim 4:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

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- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database, and a plurality of proposed contents that offer a solution based on said solution rules in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution while

August et al teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

- the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules (Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65, "Still another advantage ... are telescoped into")

Cheetam et al teaches,

- the step of displaying search results (Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, "the present invention ... the case database 26") in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution (Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54, "The basic idea ... from basic principles"; column 5, lines 49-61, "If the trial ... and their loadings")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Standardizing the formulation process and basing the formulation on product history (*Cheetam et al*, column 6, lines 58-60, "a more consistent ... on product history")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *Cheetam et al* and *August et al* for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process and improving search results.

Regarding claim 5:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base")

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- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database, a plurality of examples of solution searched out from said case database, and a plurality of contents that offer said solution examples in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

- the step of displaying a plurality of solution rules (Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65, "Still another advantage ... are telescoped into")

Cheetam et al teaches,

- the step of displaying search results (Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, "the present invention ... the case database 26") in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution (Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54, "The basic idea ... from basic principles"; column 5, lines 49-61, "If the trial ... and their loadings")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Standardizing the formulation process and basing the formulation on product history (*Cheetam et al*, column 6, lines 58-60, "a more consistent ... on product history")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *Cheetam et al* and *August et al* for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process and improving search results.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *August et al* and in further view of *Hoover et al*.

Regarding claim 6:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to... of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby

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- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or in order that each of customers can be offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and searched for each customer's information, and problems and solutions supposed for each customer are enumerated by use of said search result while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

Hoover et al teaches,

- in order that each of customers can be offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and searched for each customer's information (Figs. 1, 11, 14-15; column 2, lines 42-51, "It is desirable ... to certain medications"; column 30, lines 57-67, "if the search ... as a person". Note: Patients and hospitals/insurance companies are the

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customers and companies, respectively, whose information is searched.), and problems and solutions supposed for each customer are enumerated by use of said search result (column 5, lines 8-13, "Object repositories are ... an object repository"; column 6, lines 13-14, "The object attribute ... by object identifier"; column 6, lines 41-56, "The remote databases ... respective remote database". Note: Indexing is the mechanism for enumeration.)

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Facilitating location and retrieval of data items from one or more of the remote, heterogeneous user databases (*Hoover et al*, Abstract, "An object-based relational distributed ... heterogeneous user databases")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *Hoover et al* and *August et al* for the purpose of facilitating location/retrieval of data items and improving search results.

Regarding claim 7:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.),

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the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby

- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples or in order that each of customers can be offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and a problem from each customer is easily solved by displaying said contents selected according to the type of said customers while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

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- a problem from each customer is easily solved (column 12, lines 63-67, "The configuration tool ... search may be"; column 13, lines 1-6, "changed on a ... Living references online") by displaying said contents (column 24, lines 59-67, "A search may ... other resources. By"; column 25, lines 1-28, "using the strategy ... the given task") selected according to the type of said customers (column 5, lines 15-25, "The general purpose ... group, constrained group, etc.")

Hoover et al teaches,

- in order that each of customers can be offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to (Figs. 1, 11, 14-15; column 2, lines 42-51, "It is desirable ... to certain medications"; column 30, lines 57-67, "if the search ... as a person". Note: Patients/clients and hospitals/insurance companies are the customers and companies, respectively.)

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Facilitating location and retrieval of data items from one or more of the remote, heterogeneous user databases (*Hoover et al*, Abstract, "An object-based relational distributed ... heterogeneous user databases")
- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al* and *Hoover et al* for the purpose of facilitating location/retrieval of data items and improving search results.

Claims 17, 21, 25 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *August et al* and in further view of *King* in view of *Salvati et al* USPN 6,393,431 "Compact imaging instrument system" (Patented May 212002; Filed December 28, 1998) in view of *Curtis et al* USPN 6,161,110 "System, method and computer product for interactively presenting event data" (Patented December 12, 2000; Filed May 7, 1998) in view of *Solomon et al* USPN 6,290,774 "Sequential hydride vapor phase epitaxy" (Patented September 18, 2001; Filed May 7, 1999) and further in view of *Finkelstein et al* USPN 6,340,563 "Topographic genotyping" (Patented January 22, 2002; Filed June 24, 1996; Continued from 08/311,553 Filed September 23, 1994).

Regarding claim 17:

Baker teaches,

- receiving an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") in response to the instruction input, each said database being previously stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), the case database containing a solution to solve a problem, each example including an

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instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby

- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve a problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching

(column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")

- a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples (column 1, lines 46-49, "the knowledge base ... to be true")

- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the instruction inputted by

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the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument or further comprising a step of displaying a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

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- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed method would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 21:

Baker teaches,

- means for accepting data about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (Fig. 3, items 210, 211)

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- means for searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems"), which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby
- means for displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments based on a result of said searching (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

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However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server, means for searching a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by the demander, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby, the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection or displaying a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server (Fig. 1; column 5, lines 55-60, "this information gathering ... to the user")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

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- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in

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destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further

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processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 25:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert... many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base")
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a... to the fault"),
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem of the accented data with corresponding instruments based on a result of the function to search (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base")
- searching a case database which have been stored in a content offer server (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.) in advance, in response to the instruction, a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type... conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve the problem, each example including an instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby

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- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument or displays a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-

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32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")

King teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

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- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed medium would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")

- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 30:

Baker teaches,

- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") which have been stored in a content offer server in advance (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), in response to an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211), a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base").

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- the instruction being related to state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents"), an analysis condition of selection, and a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by a user, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument or displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

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- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- a history of input instructions (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

King teaches,

- the instruction being related to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4; lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

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- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

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- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 31:

Baker teaches,

- means for accepting data about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- means for searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") which have been stored in a content offer server in advance (Note: The

knowledge base is the content offer server.), in response to an instruction input by a user (Fig. 3, items 210, 211), a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved

- means for displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments based on a search result (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the... a data base").

- the instruction being related to state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents"), an analysis condition of selection, and a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by a demander, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a

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relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument, displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection or means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server while

August et al teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- a history of input instructions (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")
- means for transmitting said accepted data to an information providing server (Fig. 1; column 5, lines 55-60, "this information gathering ... to the user")

King teaches,

- the instruction being related to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

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Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information";

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column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed system would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further

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processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 32:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") which have been stored in a content offer server in advance (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), in response to the instruction (Fig. 3, items 210, 211), a rule (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve the problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base").

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- the instruction being related to state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents"), an analysis condition of selection, and a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by a user, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument or displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

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- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine"), the meta database including a rule (column 2, lines 47-50, "Existing systems rely ... having separate structures") extracted (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database") from a plurality of actual examples (column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- a history of input instructions (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

King teaches,

- the instruction being related to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

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- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed medium would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

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- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by, *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Regarding claim 33:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base")
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),

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- searching a case database (column 2, lines 1-23, "An alternative to...of these systems") which have been stored in a content offer server in advance (Note: The knowledge base is the content offer server.), having solution rules (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solutions in association with said problem each of the examples including an analytical instrument (column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert ... many different areas". Note: The computer is the instrument.) the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument
- displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result (column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base").
- the instruction being related to state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59, "The marginal or ... and its parents"), an analysis condition of selection, and a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach searching either a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, having solution

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rules stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solutions in association with said problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument or extracting and displaying a solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *August et al* teaches,

- searching a meta database (Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, "after the creation ... conventional search engine")
- extracting (column 2, lines 18-32, "artificial intelligence techniques ... the target database"; column 15, lines 33-39, "Once users of ... interests categories, etc.")
- a history of input instructions (column 23, lines 7-19, "The Smart Search ... extended resource set")

King teaches,

- the instruction being related to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")

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- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines

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55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed medium would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Improving search results (*August et al*, column 5, lines 26-27, "COI Community of Interest ... improved search results")
- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *August et al*, *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of improving search results as well as reducing instrument costs, transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *King*.

Regarding claim 27:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base") and
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- searching either a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, having solution rules (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solution in association with said problem each of the examples including an instrument having a predetermined function
- extracting and displaying (FIG. 3, items 202-203, 208, 210, 214) a solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules
- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59,

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"The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument while *King* teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Motivation – The portions of the claimed method would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *King* for the purpose of reducing instrument costs.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baker* in view of *King* in view of *Salvati et al* in view of *Curtis et al* in view of *Solomon et al* and in further view of *Finkelstein et al*.

Regarding claim 29:

Baker teaches,

- accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem (FIG. 3, items 212, 202; column 1, lines 24-26, "Computer based diagnostic/expert...many different areas"; column 8, lines 9-31, "According to the...a data base") and
- receiving said data of said problem (column 8, lines 44-63, "According to a...to the fault"),
- searching either a meta database or a case database, which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, having solution rules (column 1, lines 45-67, "The earliest type...conditions grows large") stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem having examples of solution in association with said problem each of the examples including an instrument having a predetermined function
- extracting and displaying (FIG. 3, items 202-203, 208, 210, 214) a solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules
- the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function (column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis")
- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection (column 5, lines 43-46, "The HUGIN software ... at each node; column 11, lines 51-59,

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"The marginal or ... and its parents") an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument (column 8, lines 59-63, "the interface also ... to the fault"; column 12, lines 66-67, "The TCP/IP data collector ... network devices, the"; column 13, lines 1-18, "results of which ... the fault diagnosis"; Note: The computer is the analytical instrument while the Bayesian network is the analytical technique.)

However, *Baker* doesn't explicitly teach the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument or displays a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection while *King* teaches,

- the instruction inputted by the user relates to a part selection (column 11, lines 5-11, "the instrument engineer ... for the installation")

Salvati et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 4, lines 24-34, "the hand-held multimedia instrument is ... the multimedia instrument")
- a sample (column 7, lines 19-25, "it will be readily ... concepts presented herein") to be analyzed when selected (Fig. 2; column 8, lines 19-47, "a diagnostic instrument ... incorporated by reference"; Note: The diagnostic instrument performs the analysis.)

Curtis et al teaches,

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- solutions with their priority levels (Fig. 11; column 11, lines 46-53, "rules-based enhancing engine ... features, priority levels, etc.")
- a case database and rules (Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10)

Solomon et al teaches,

- priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty (column 1, lines 28-29, "There are, however ... associated with HVPE"; column 2, lines 47-64, "a method is ... is much improved"; Note: This is determined by the thickness of the epitaxial layer.) in destroying a sample when a morphologic observation is selected

Finkelstein et al teaches,

- a plurality of instruments (column 8, lines 34-43, "The topographic tissue ... and easy application") in the solutions with their priority (column 1, lines 39-54, "To realize the ... accurate histopathologic evaluation") levels (column 21, lines 1-11, "an informatics system ... a particular user"; column 27, lines 52-67, "the user of ... to 30 or more"; column 28, lines 1-2, "individual assays upon ... with great assurance") in an order of degree (column 26, lines 4-24, "to determine whether ... predictive genetic information"; column 30, lines 16-28, "the molecular analysis ... individual case basis") of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation (column 30, lines 55-67, "the first priority ... atypical cellular proliferations"; column 31, lines 1-5, "are found in ... of biological importance") is selected as the analysis selection

Motivation – The portions of the claimed method would have been a highly desirable feature in this art for

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- Reducing instrument costs (*King*, column 1, lines 19-42, "When an instrument ... a reduced cost")
- Transferring instrument data for further processing (*Salvati et al*, Abstract, "An imaging instrument ... voice recognition software")
- Securely enhancing a case database (*Curtis et al*, Abstract, "A system, method and ... users during runtime")
- Improving surface morphology (*Solomon et al*, Abstract, "A method for forming ... into a single process")
- Guiding medical management (*Finkelstein et al*, column 31, lines 5-8, "TG would be the ... guide medical management")

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify *Baker* as taught by *King*, *Salvati et al*, *Curtis et al*, *Solomon et al* and *Finkelstein et al* for the purpose of reducing instrument costs as well as transferring instrument data for further processing, securely enhancing a case database, improving surface morphology and guiding medical management.

RESPONSE TO APPLICANTS' AMENDMENT REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement(IDS)

Applicant(s) argue(s) that the new IDS and 1449 (dated 7/6/04) fully complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP 609 (Amendment REMARKS page 17, paragraph 3). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. The Nikkei

Mechanical Edition document on page 3, lines 15-18 was included with the JP-A-11-345261 and JP-A-9-251385 month/year of publication. The IDS objections are withdrawn.

Drawings

Applicant(s) argue(s) that an amendment to Fig. 6 is not necessary (Amendment REMARKS page 18, paragraph 1) and that the amendment to Figs. 2, 5, 11 and 16 clarify and correct minor errors or informalities previously reported (Amendment REMARKS page 16, paragraph 1 and page 18, paragraph 2). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. 'DESIRED-TO-IMPROVE' was added to Figs. 2 and 5, items 402 and 502, respectively, so that page 9, line 19 would not have to be modified, 'No.' was added to Fig. 11, item 201 and 'or pattern' was added to page 17, lines 11-12 so that modifying Fig. 16 is unnecessary. The drawing objections are withdrawn.

Specification

Applicant(s) argue(s) that the amendments to the specification further clarify the invention (Amendment REMARKS page 18, paragraph 3). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are mostly persuasive: 'concerned with solution' was added to page 8, lines 18 and 22, 'No.' was added to page 9, line 10, 'changing condensed condition' was substituted on page 11, lines 21-22, 106 was substituted on page 11, line 23, step 706 should be mentioned on page 13, lines 15-19, the title change was

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accepted. However, the specification replacement paragraph at page 19, lines 15-19 has what appears to be a note to the authors: 'FDB—is this correct' (Amendment SPECIFICATION page 4, paragraph 3). Except for the replacement paragraph at page 19, lines 15-19, the specification objections are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Applicant(s) argue(s) that the amendment to claim 1 justifies withdrawing the 35 USC 101 rejection (Amendment REMARKS page 19, paragraph 1). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The language of the claim is still directed to non-statutory subject matter as given in the above 35 USC 101 rejection of claims 1 and 30.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

Applicant(s) argue(s) that the amendment to claims 1 and 5 justifies withdrawing the 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph rejections (Amendment REMARKS page 19, paragraph 2). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered. The amendment to claim 5 is persuasive and the rejection is withdrawn. However, the following items were noted:

- claims 1 and 8 - 'based on a result of said searching' would read well if removed
- claim 11 – the limitation containing 'based on a result of the function to search' would read well reworded

- claims 32-33 – ‘accepting data regarding an instruction by a user of a problem’ would read well reworded.
- claims 8 and 31 – ‘transmitting’ is not addressed in the specification.

Claims 1, 8, 11 and 31-33 are objected to for the above reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Applicant(s) argue(s) that Baker USPN 6,076,083 does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of amended claims 1, 11-12 and new claims 30-33: searching a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by a user, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a solution to solve a problem, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument or displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search result, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection (Amendment REMARKS page 19, paragraph 5 and page 20, paragraph 1).

In agreeing Baker does not disclose the inventions defined in these claims, the examiner recognizes the new issues raised in amended claims 1, 11-12 and new claims 30-33. Consequently, August USPN 6,647,383, King USPN 6,772,103, Salvati et al USPN 6,393,431, Curtis et al USPN 6,161,110, Solomon et al USPN 6,290,774 and Finkelstein et al USPN 6,340,563 are cited individually and in combination with Baker for explicitly and inherently disclosing the subject matter set forth in the claims by the applicants as detailed in the above 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 30.

Applicant(s) argue(s) that Baker does not disclose or suggest searching a meta database or a case database, where the meta database includes a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function to determine information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved, and the case database containing a solution to solve a problem (Amendment REMARKS page 21, paragraph 1). Applicants' arguments are not agreed with when Baker column 2, lines 1-23, Fig. 3, items 210, 211, column 1, lines 45-67 is modified as taught by August Figs. 1, 10, 15; column 7, lines 60-66, column 2, lines 47-50, column 2, lines 18-32 and column 15, lines 33-39 for the purpose of improving search results (column 5, lines 26-27).

Applicant(s) argue(s) Baker does not disclose or suggest the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of a selection, or a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument, or displaying data regarding the examples of solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instrument based on a search

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result, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection (Amendment REMARKS page 21, paragraph 2 and page 22, paragraph 1). Applicants' arguments are not agreed with when Baker column 5, lines 43-46, column 11, lines 51-59, column 8, lines 59-63, column 12, lines 66-67 and column 13, lines 1-18 is modified as taught by August column 23, lines 7-19 for the purpose of improving search results (column 5, lines 26-27), King column 11, lines 5-11 for the purpose of reducing instrument costs (column 1, lines 19-42), Salvati Fig. 2, column 4, lines 24-34, column 7, lines 19-25, column 8, lines 19-47 for the purpose of transferring instrument data for further processing (Abstract), Curtis Figs. 1, 2A, 3-8, 10, 11, column 11, lines 46-53 for the purpose of securely enhancing a case database (Abstract), Solomon column 1, lines 28-29, column 2, lines 47-64 for the purpose of improving surface morphology (Abstract) and Finkelstein column 8, lines 34-43, column 1, lines 39-54, column 21, lines 1-11, column 27, lines 52-67, column 28, lines 1-2, column 26, lines 4-24, column 30, lines 16-28, column 30, lines 55-67 and column 31, lines 1-5 for the purpose of guiding medical management (column 31, lines 5-8).

Applicant(s) argue(s) that claims 3, 13 and new claims 14-17 and 22-29 are patentable for the same reasons the independent claims they depend on are patentable (Amendment REMARKS page 22, paragraph 2). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In addition to the above rejection of claims

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under sections 35 USC 102 and 103, claims 3, 13-17 and 22-29 are further rejected for being dependent on rejected independent claims.

Applicant(s) argue(s) that Baker does not disclose or suggest displaying a plurality of example solutions searched out from the case database in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution as in claim 3 (Amendment REMARKS page 22, paragraph 2). Applicants' arguments are not agreed with when Baker column 2, lines 1-23 is modified as taught by August Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65 for the purpose of improving search results (column 5, lines 26-27) and Cheetam Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54 and column 5, lines 49-61 for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process (column 6, lines 58-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Applicant(s) argue(s) that Baker, Syeda-Mahmood USPN 5,920,856 and Litwin "Interoperability of Multiple Autonomous Databases" do not disclose or suggest claim 8's searching a meta database or a case database which have been stored in a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction input by demander, the meta database including a rule extracted from a plurality of actual examples, the case database including a solution to solve a problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a problem to be solved thereby, or displaying data regarding the examples of solution to solve the problems of the accepted data with corresponding instruments based on a result of the searching (Amendment REMARKS page 24,

paragraph 1). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection given above.

Applicant(s) argue(s) that claims 2, 4-7, 9-10 and 18-21 are patentable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 8. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In addition to the above rejection of claims under sections 35 USC 103, claims 2, 4-7, 9-10 and 18-21 are further rejected for being dependent on rejected independent claims.

Applicant(s) argue(s) that neither Syeda-Mahmood nor Litwin overcome the defects previously noted regarding Baker, displaying a plurality of solution rules based on the meta rule searched out from the meta database, and a plurality of proposed contents that offer a solution based on the solution rules in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution (Amendment REMARKS page 24, paragraph 2 and page 25, paragraph 1). Applicants' arguments are not agreed with when Baker column 2, lines 1-23 is modified as taught by August Figs. 5-10; column 3, lines 62-65 for the purpose of improving search results (column 5, lines 26-27) and Cheetam Figs. 1-4, 8; column 4, lines 59-61, Fig. 9; column 2, lines 50-54 and column 5, lines 49-61 for the purpose of standardizing the formulation process (column 6, lines 58-60).

As set forth above with regards to Baker, August, Hoover, Cheetam, King, Salvati, Curtis, Solomon and Finkelstein, the items listed explicitly and inherently teach each element of the applicants' claimed limitations. Applicants have not set forth any distinction or offered any dispute between the claims of the subject application, Baker's Diagnostic system utilizing a Bayesian network model having link weights updated

experimentally, August's System and method for providing interactive dialogue and iterative search functions to find information, Hoover's Methods and systems for object-based relational distributed databases, Cheetam's Method and system for formulating a color match, King's Method for selecting a parts kit detail, Salvati's Compact imaging instrument system, Curtis' System, method and computer product for interactively presenting event data, Solomon's Sequential hydride vapor phase epitaxy and Finkelstein's Topographic genotyping.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Office should be directed to Melvin Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-3680. This Examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach this Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, his supervisor, Anthony Knight, can be reached on 571-272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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